



Lantern

**One church of all ages, with a vibrant, dynamic, worshipping heart,
reaching out with the love of Christ to Marlow Bottom and beyond**

Welcome to our service!

With lots of things going on in Marlow Bottom we will try our best to keep you posted through this Newsletter and in other ways. Please let us know if there are ways we can improve our communications.

23rd December 2018 – 4th Sunday of Advent

**09.30 Holy Communion at The Chapel
11.00 Lantern Community Action Sunday**

Services in December

24 Dec	15.30 Crib Service at St Mary's 16.30 Crib Service at St Mary's
25 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion at St Mary's 10.30 Informal Family Service at the Chapel
30 Dec	11.00 Combined Service – Communion at St Mary's

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

'Don't forget that there is lunch at Sami and Graham's at 12.45 today, so do please join us, we would love to see you!

In the New Year, we will be looking forward to launching our small groups for the term. To give you a sneak preview....

- Tool Kit - ancient wisdom for life in the Modern world' is a new course, led by Sami. It will be aimed at women, particularly those who might be looking for a bit more order in their busy lives. Either on Monday afternoons 1.45-3 and Friday evenings 8-9.30, both bi-weekly. Do speak to Sami if you think you might be interested.
- Ever wanted to talk to people about your faith, but scared you will say the wrong thing? If that resonates with you, then you might be interested in a small group that Graham will be running on Wednesday evenings - again, ask him for more details.
- And, just for fun Board Game Cafe will be open at St. Mary's on Sunday 27th January, Saturday 2nd March and Saturday 23rd March, all afternoon. If you, or someone you know, likes to play board games, this will be a great chance to get together and have a brilliant afternoon!

Lantern youth has finished now until **6th January** when the first meeting of the new term will be at St. Mary's.

followthestar In our Christmas publicity this year we are using the C of E's campaign #followthestar. Go to www.churchofengland.org/followthestar to sign up for daily email reflections over the Christmas period. If you use social media please look out for this campaign and like/follow and share with your contacts.

If you would like to sign up for the **parish giving scheme**, please talk to Lorraine Jackman or Graham Watts.

Readings for next week: **Colossians 3: 12-17**
Luke 2: 41-end

***We are ordinary people led by an extraordinary God,
whose love inspires us to welcome everyone, serve our communities
and grow as we follow Jesus together***

TOGETHER IN PRAYER IN MARLOW & MARLOW BOTTOM

Week beginning 23rd December 2018 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

A Prayer for Christmas Lord Jesus, this Christmas as we sing the familiar carols, hear the familiar readings and ponder on familiar mysteries, give to us the gift of pure worship – that ability which Mary had of attributing to you your true worth, your full value, your inestimable greatness. Teach us to be reverent; yet teach us how to express the love that burns within our hearts as we think of your goodness to us that you have come to be our light in darkness, our hope in despair, our strength in weakness, our shelter in the storm – yes, and our eternal Saviour.



Pray for all those visiting our church at this special time may we be welcoming and offer hospitality in the name and Spirit of our Saviour Jesus Christ and share his love and joy for all people

Pray for the teams preparing all aspects of the Christmas services, choirs for beautiful singing and music, children's volunteers for the Crib services the flower ladies for floral displays and the clergy.

Pray for children who will have no special moments or treats this Christmas, those from broken homes, living on the streets, alone and afraid.

Pray for all those at home and abroad whose lives have been altered by violence, terrorist acts, severe weather and tragic accidents. **Pray** for our broken world, those continuing to flee from violence and poverty that seek a better future in foreign lands, pray they will find a welcome and a decent place to live with support to make informed decisions about their future and the best way forward with hope. **Pray** for the oppressed and suffering, the lonely lost and abandoned. **Pray** for those working to bring relief and genuine hope for all in need.

Pray for those who are sick in body mind or spirit and all those who struggle to make sense of their lives, and are facing personal times of crisis. **Pray** for those who are elderly and housebound, or living in residential homes with few friends or visitors. **Pray** for those recovering in hospital or at home; those waiting for treatment; those coming to terms with disability or changed lifestyles, especially for those in our church family and community.

Pray for those who have recently died and those who are still missed and give thanks for their lives; may those who mourn know the peace of Christ. **Pray** for doctors, nurses, technicians and carers who use their God given skills to heal and to mend. **Give thanks** for those who are healing.